

## CLAIMS

[Received by International Bureau on 11/18/04 (November 18, 2004): Claims 24-39 of original application are replaced by the amended Claims 24-37; other Claims are unchanged. (3  
5 pages)]

21. The probe according to any one of Claims 1 through 20, wherein said binding residue is an aliphatic residue having an unsaturated double bond or unsaturated triple bond.

22. The probe according to any one of Claims 1 through  
10 20, wherein said binding residue is an aromatic residue having an unsaturated double bond or unsaturated triple bond.

23. The probe according to Claim 22, wherein, when said aromatic residue having said unsaturated double bond is a cinnamic acid group, said intermediate excitation medium  
15 is N-[3-(3,5-bis(3,5-bis[3,5-bis(4-mercaptobenzylthio)benzylthio]benzylthio)benzyloxy)-propionyl-4-nitro-1-naphthylamine.

24. (Amended) A probe comprising:

a support; and

20 a molecule which is fixed on said support and which interacts physically with a probe scanning target, wherein

said molecule comprises a probe branch that forms the end of said probe and a plurality of binding branches extending radially from the tip of said probe branch on the  
25 support side to be fixed by selective binding to said support.

25. (Amended) A probe comprising;

a support; and

a molecule which is fixed on said support and which interacts chemically with a probe scanning target, wherein said molecule comprises a probe branch that forms the end of said probe and a plurality of binding branches extending radially from the tip of said probe branch on the support side to be fixed by selective binding to said support.

26. (Amended) The probe according to Claim 24 or 25, wherein said molecule is a probe molecule which has a dendrimer structure.

27. (Amended) The probe according to Claim 24 or 25, wherein said probe branch and said binding branches have different structures, and said plurality of binding branches branch radially from said tip of said probe branch, forming a tree structure with said probe branch as a trunk.

28. (Amended) The probe according to Claim 27, wherein said molecule has a dendrimer structure.

29. (Amended) The probe according to any one of Claims 24 through 28, wherein one molecule of said molecule is fixed on said support.

30. (Amended) The probe according to any one of Claims 24 through 29, wherein said probe scanning target is a molecule.

31. (Amended) The probe according to any one of Claims 24 through 30, wherein said molecule is fixed to said support by chemical bonds.

32. (Amended) A probe comprising:

a support; and

an active molecule which is fixed so as to protrude  
from said support and which acts physically on a probe  
5 scanning target, wherein

said active molecule comprises a probe branch that  
forms the end of said probe and a plurality of binding  
branches extending radially from the tip of said probe  
branch on the support side to be fixed by selective binding  
10 to said support.

33. (Amended) A probe comprising:

a support; and

an active molecule which is fixed so as to protrude  
from said support and which acts physically on a probe  
15 scanning target, wherein said active molecule has a  
dendrimer structure.

34. (Amended) The probe according to Claim 32,  
wherein said probe branch and said binding branches have  
different structures, and said plurality of binding branches  
20 branch radially from said tip of said probe branch, forming  
a tree structure with said probe branch as a trunk.

35. (Amended) The probe according to Claim 32 or 34,  
wherein said active molecule has a dendrimer structure.

36. (Amended) The probe according to any one of  
25 Claims 32 through 35, wherein one molecule of said active  
molecule is fixed on said support.

37. (Amended) The probe according to any one of

Claims 32 through 36, wherein said active molecule is fixed to said support by chemical bonds.